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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,316	01/26/2004	James B. Burr	TRAN-P192	9420

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EXAMINER

OWENS, DOUGLAS W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2811

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,316

Applicant(s)

BURR ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas W. Owens

Art Unit

2811

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 15-21 and 35-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 35-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 15-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1 – 7 and 15 – 21 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Hartranft et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.
2. Claims 35 – 41 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 15, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,605,980 to Hartranft et al.

Regarding claim 1, Hartranft et al. teach an integrated circuit (Fig. 6) comprising:

a body bias distribution circuit (89);

a pad (11') coupled to the body bias distribution circuit, said pad for receiving an externally applied voltage;

an internal voltage bus (labeled V_{DD} at top); and

a circuit component (R4) coupled to the internal voltage bus and coupled to the body bias distribution circuit, wherein the internal voltage bus supplies a body bias voltage to said distribution circuit absent a voltage applied to the pad.

Regarding claim 2, this is considered a suggested use limitation and is not given any patentable weight. (See *In re Casey*, 370 F.2d 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967); *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 938, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963)).

Regarding claim 3, Hartranft et al. teach an IC, wherein the component is a resistor.

Regarding claim 5, Hartranft et al. teach an IC, wherein the internal voltage bus is coupled to a power supply voltage of the integrated circuit.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Hartranft et al. teach an IC, further comprising a plurality of MOS transistors (M4, M5) coupled to the body bias distribution circuit via body terminals (transistor gates).

Regarding claim 15, Hartranft et al. teach a semiconductor device comprising a first terminal (transistor gate) for coupling a voltage to a body terminal of a MOS semiconductor, wherein the body terminal is not coupled to a source or a drain of the MOS semiconductor. Examiner notes that many capacitors that can be used in a semiconductor device will also meet this limitation.

Regarding claim 17, Hartranft et al. teach a semiconductor device, wherein the terminal is a pad.

Regarding claim 21, Hartranft et al. teach a semiconductor device comprising a plurality of MOS transistors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2811

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4 and 16 and 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartranft et al.

Regarding claims 4 and 16, Hartranft et al. do not explicitly teach using an external pin coupled to the pad. External pins are known means of connecting external voltages to semiconductor devices. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a known means, since it is desirable to use components that are known to be reliable.

Regarding claim 18, Hartranft et al. do not teach that the terminal is a coupling to a metal layer of the semiconductor device. Metal is a known and commonly used material for electrical connections. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use metal, since it is well suited for the intended use. The selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use supported a *prima facie* obviousness determination in *Sinclair & Carroll Co. v. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, this is considered a suggested use limitation and is not given any patentable weight. (See *In re Casey*, 370 F.2d 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967); *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 938, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963)). Moreover, these device are commonly used in digital devices and microprocessors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the device in such

Art Unit: 2811

a manner, since it is desirable to use reliable circuitry in digital devices and microprocessors.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas W. Owens whose telephone number is 571-272-1662. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Owens".

Douglas W Owens
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2811

DWO
10 July 2006